

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia

COUNTY:
Stafford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
|--------------|------|
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Falmouth Preservation Zone~~ HISTORIC DISTRICT #089,0067

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Falmouth

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: From the intersection of Rt. 1 and Rt. 17, the zone extends .3 mi. N. .6 mi. E. .2 mi. S. and .3 mi. W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Falmouth

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE Virginia | CODE 45 | COUNTY Stafford | CODE 179 |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious 3 Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ |
|---|--|--|---|

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Falmouth

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
45

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Stafford County Court house

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. Route 1

CITY OR TOWN:
Stafford

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(TITLE OF SURVEY)
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Stafford

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DA

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Falmouth is divided by Cambridge Street (Route 1), which runs roughly north-south, Falls Run on the west which parallels Route 1 and empties into the Rappahannock River which borders the town on the south. Cross streets paralleling the river are King Street (Route 607), Washington Street, Carter Street, Prince Street (Route 17 and 610) and Forbes Street. Dramatic changes in topography are as great as the variance in architectural quality. The small, plain frame nineteenth-century structures that line the lowest point of Washington Street near its crossing of Falls Run contrast with the much altered but still impressive frame mass of Belmont, home of the portrait and landscape painter Gari Melchers (1860-1932), at the peak of a hill to the west. Lower Cambridge Street, with its two brick commercial structures and the tiny Customs House nearby, rises to its merging with Route 1 where small, frame nineteenth-century homes of varying shapes line the major thoroughfare. In turn, a second eighteenth-century frame house, Carlton, overlooks this area on the northwest corner of the town. King Street, with its brick, Federal style Moncure-Conway House and others facing the river, has a striking view of the facade remnant of Union Methodist Church above to the north. Still further up the hill stands Clearview, the third of the three mansions which look down upon the town.

The list of historic structures included in this preservation zone is as follows:

Cambridge Street: the Basil Gordon Warehouse, 104 Cambridge St., an early-nineteenth-century brick structure; a Commercial Building at 111 Cambridge St., erected in the early part of the nineteenth century; the early-nineteenth century Customs House on W. Cambridge St., near Washington St., certainly one of the most unusual buildings in the town; the frame Brooks House at 125 W. Cambridge St., dating from the nineteenth century; the Brooks House at 201 W. Cambridge St. which still contains some of its original eighteenth-century interior trim; the nineteenth-century frame house at 305 Cambridge St.; the Double House, 307 Cambridge St., of frame construction but now covered by asbestos siding (mid-nineteenth century); the Highway Assembly of God Church on the southeast corner of Forbes and Cambridge Sts. dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries; the one-story frame house at 400 Cambridge St. (early-nineteenth century); the mid-nineteenth century house at 405 Cambridge St. now covered by asbestos siding; the frame house at 422 Cambridge St. which has a massive brick exterior end chimney (early-nineteenth century); Berry's Store at the northwest corner of Cambridge and Washington Sts. with a low parapet wall on the gable end store front (late-nineteenth century).

Washington Street: the old Post Office at 101 Washington St., a mid-nineteenth century structure moved from its original location; an early-nineteenth century house on the east side of Falls Run, south of Washington St.; the Calvary Pentecostal Tabernacle, 105 Washington St., dating from the mid-nineteenth century; the stone house on the south side of Washington St. just east of Falls Run; the late-nineteenth century frame houses at 108, 110, 112, and 115 Washington St.; the mid-nineteenth century frame house at 114 Washington St.; the frame house at 118 Washington St., possibly dating from the late-eighteenth century which has a gambrel roof and three

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Falmouth was laid off in 1727 on fifty acres along the Rappahannock River belonging to William Todd. The government of the town was entrusted to seven trustees appointed by the House of Burgesses. It should be noted that the first seven trustees were gentlemen of the first rank, being Robert Carter, president, Nicholas Smith, John Fitzhugh, Charles Carter, Henry Fitzhugh, John Warner and William Thornton. The town prospered and soon rivaled its sister city of Fredericksburg. By 1773 its charter was amended so the trustees could be elected and the president be allowed to serve as mayor. In 1845 Falmouth was visited by a traveller who described it as containing "1 free church, 6 or 7 mercantile stores, 2 extensive flouring mills, and 1 large cotton factory, and a population of about 500." The town was on the wane by this time, but it should be remembered that during the eighteenth century and during the first part of the nineteenth it was one of the important mercantile centers of Virginia. Much of its original character remains, although time has not dealt gently with some of its elements.

Pierced by U. S. Route 1 (Cambridge Street) and especially hurt by the new commercial buildings at the intersection of Route 1 and Route 17 (Prince Street), Falmouth nonetheless is a significant collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century structures, enough of which remain to illustrate the extent and character of the old port and trading center. Most of the buildings, whether of frame, brick, or stone, are extremely simple, with few sophisticated decorative features used even on the larger homes. What gives Falmouth a specific identity is its site, which varies from the low river-side rows of homes along King and Washington Streets to the surrounding hills with the three houses overlooking the town.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gayle, T. Benton and Virginia P., "Some Historical Highlights of Colonial Stafford County, "Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. XVI, no. 1 (December, 1966), 1545-1564.
 Howe, Henry. Historical Collections of Virginia (Charleston, S. C., 1845).
 Smith, Mrs. Margaret L., "Falmouth, Va.: 1720" (pamphlet).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|-----------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | LATITUDE | | LONGITUDE |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 38° 19' 38" | 77° 28' 26" | 0 | | |
| NE | 38° 19' 38" | 77° 27' 30" | | | |
| SE | 38° 19' 16" | 77° 27' 30" | | | |
| SW | 38° 19' 16" | 77° 28' 26" | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 225 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director | |
| ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission | DATE November 17, 1969 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Richmond | STATE Virginia |
| | CODE 45 |

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE Virginia | |
| COUNTY Stafford | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

7. exterior end chimneys; the Tavern at 119 Washington St. constructed of brick (American bond) with a brick corbeled cornice and shed dormers on the gable roof (possibly late-eighteenth century); the mid-nineteenth century Tavern Keeper's House, 123 Washington St.; Belmont, 225 Washington St., a large frame house built circa 1761 and extensively altered in the nineteenth century, and its caretaker's cottage.

Carter Street: the late-eighteenth century Sam Gordon House at 100 Carter St. has a modillioned cornice; Robert Dunbar's Kitchen, 107 Carter St., is a later stuccoed structure erected between two earlier massive brick and stone exterior end chimneys; Union Methodist Church, at the head of Carter St., an early-nineteenth century brick church, most of which burned leaving only the west facade and a few feet of the north and south walls remaining; Master Hobby School on the east side of Carter St., south of Prince St., is a mid-eighteenth century log and brick structure with mortar chinking, also moved from its original location; Clearview on Route 664 east of Falmouth is a mid-eighteenth century frame, two-story house with hipped roof and modillioned cornice, altered in the nineteenth century.

Prince Street: the nineteenth-century frame houses at 104, 106, and 115 Prince St.; the frame house on the northwest corner of Prince and Carter Sts. (mid-nineteenth century).

King Street: the Basil Gordon House at 303 King St., a brick structure dating from the early-nineteenth century; the Moncure-Conway House, 305 King St., an early-nineteenth century brick house whose eastern two bays of the five-bay front are only half as deep in plan as the western three bays; the nineteenth century Counting House, 103 Gordon St.; and Carlton, located on a hill overlooking the town northwest of the intersection of Route 1 and Route 17, a mid-eighteenth century frame house still in good condition.

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #89-3
1969 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE Virginia | |
| COUNTY Stafford | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: Falmouth Preservation Zone | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Falmouth | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: From the intersection of Rt. 1 and Rt. 17, the zone extends .3 mi. N, .6 mi. E, .2 mi. S, and .3 mi. W. | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Falmouth | | | |
| STATE: Virginia | CODE 45 | COUNTY: Stafford | CODE 179 |
| 3. MAP REFERENCE | | | |
| SOURCE: Contemporary plat showing layout of town lots. | | | |
| SCALE: | | | |
| DATE: | | | |
| 4. REQUIREMENTS | | | |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS | | | |
| 1. Property boundaries where required. | | | |
| 2. North arrow. | | | |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference. | | | |

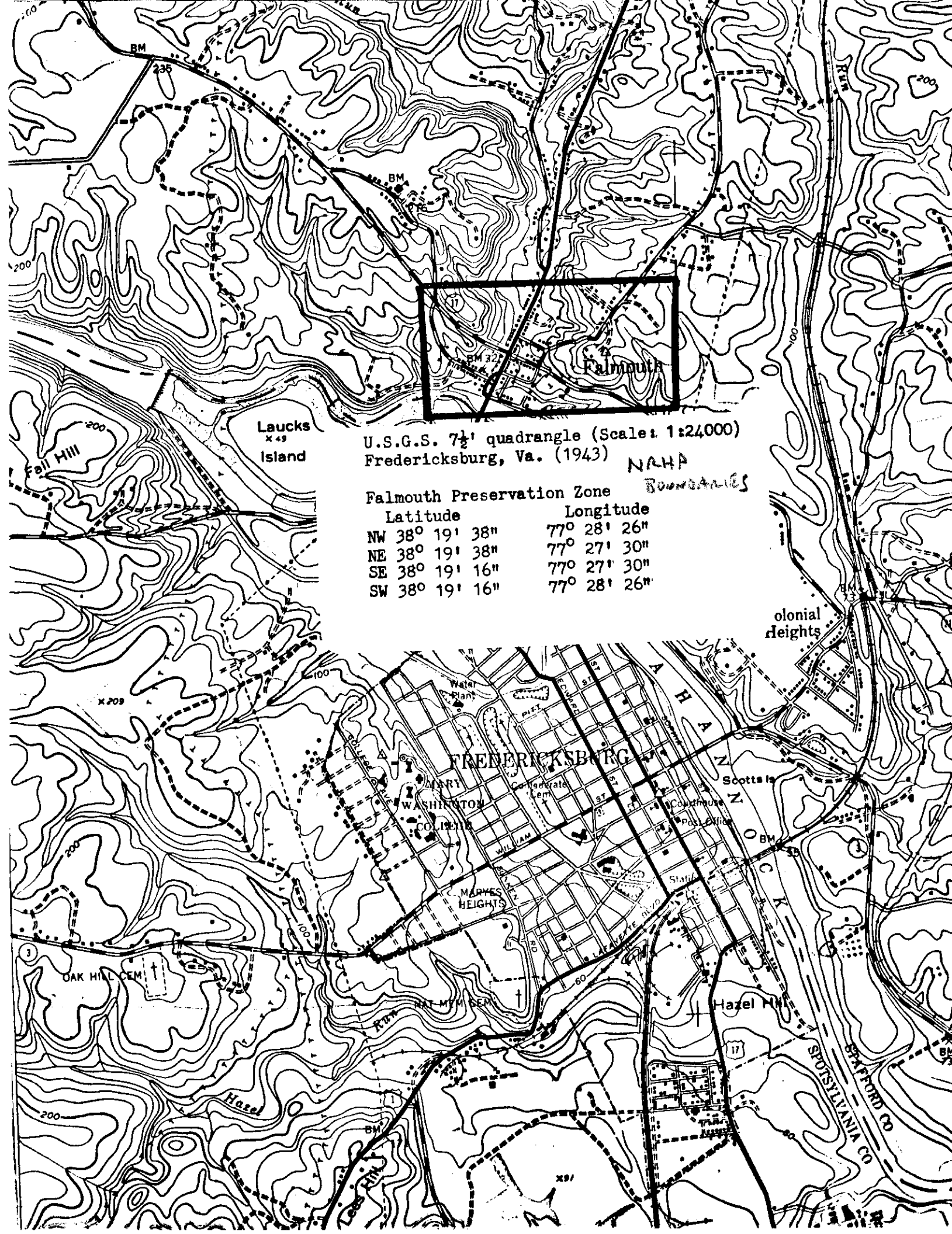
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE Virginia | |
| COUNTY Stafford | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
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| AND/OR HISTORIC: Falmouth | | | |
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| CITY OR TOWN: Falmouth | | | |
| STATE: Virginia | CODE 45 | COUNTY: Stafford | CODE 179 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Chamber of Commerce | | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1966 | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Chamber of Commerce Richmond, Virginia | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. | | | |
| View of Belmont from the South. | | | |



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
Fredericksburg, Va. (1943)

Falmouth Preservation Zone

| Latitude | Longitude |
|----------------|-------------|
| NW 38° 19' 38" | 77° 28' 26" |
| NE 38° 19' 38" | 77° 27' 30" |
| SE 38° 19' 16" | 77° 27' 30" |
| SW 38° 19' 16" | 77° 28' 26" |

NAHA
Boundaries

PROPOSED NEW
HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES

VLR -
NOT
NRHP
CURRENTLY
(2/2003)

